SİLLE SETTLEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE HISTORICAL FABRIC AND FAÇADE ANALYSIS OF ITS TRADITIONAL HOUSES

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Abstract
Sille is located 8 km northwest of Konya city center in the Central Anatolia region. It is one of the most important and historically rooted residential units in Anatolia. Although it is located in close proximity to Konya, Sille draws attention as a unique site with its geographical structure, cultural life, beliefs and tradition. In this study, firstly, Sille’s historical significance, cultural and social characteristics are addressed with a particular focus on its distinct structure pertaining to its culture, belief, tradition and geography. Then, a typology study is carried out by explaining the city settlement constituting Sille’s historical fabric, façade characteristics and elements of Sille traditional houses. In this context, 16 traditional house façades are chosen in line with the infrastructures formed through the literature review on the subject. These house façades are examined and analyzed through the help of visual data. In the light of the data obtained from the results of this analysis, evaluations and suggestions on the preservation of Sille’s historical fabric are made.

Keywords: Historical fabric; traditional houses; façade analysis; Sille.

INTRODUCTION
K. Schwanzer (1918 - 1975), an Australian architect, defines an architectural structure as “Four walls and something more than a dome above our heads.” This “something more” refers to an artistic, sociological, anthropological, aesthetic, historical and cultural structure. For this reason, relationship between the human and the house should be analyzed within the context of cultural structure and social constituents of culture. Housing configuration, which comes to being as a result of this multi-layered interaction, is not an outcome of mere physical effects. It is the result of all socio-cultural factors. These factors are defined as cultural values and choices by Rapaport; as rules, norms and social relationships by Malzumdar and as symbolic meanings by Lawrence and Low.

Houses, as a part of culture-space interaction, constitute a historical document enabling an understanding of the life experience as well as material and technology of a particular period (Perker, 2012). Traditional house architecture and its traditional fabric constitute a live museum, which reflects history, culture, life-style and world views of a society. The house is a cultural phenomenon. Its form and organization are influenced by the cultural environment it belongs to. Social infrastructure of communities is in a state of constant transformation. Together with this process, people’s expectations from their environments and inhabited spaces were subjected to change. Existing dwellings were not able to meet the novel needs stemming from the diversified social structures. Expectations deriving from changing habits, rules, customs and relationships directly affected the formation of the house; thereby, transforming the house to meet the novel needs. According to Rapoport (1969), diverse forms of housings constitute a complicated phenomenon. Thus, constitutions of this formation are not easy to explain. All explanations have a single point of departure: people with different attitudes and their conducts towards the environment. These conducts differ according to the inhabited place, because changes in social, cultural, economic and physical factors have an important role in these conducts. These factors may as well show differences in the same place within the course of distinct time periods.
The construction of the houses, over large territories for hundred years, abided to the general principles of the Turkish houses, despite the different conditions such as social, cultural and economic factors and diverse physical environments such as climate, technology and material. As Eldem (1968) argues, the Turkish house was formed in Rumelian and Anatolian regions within the territories of the Ottoman State and it continued for 500 years. In this sense, it is a type of house marked by its own characteristics. Turkish house went through significant developments within the course of this period. It expanded, took root and formed various types in distant and distinct lands in terms of climate, nature and folklore. These differences stemmed from the adoption of regional materials and local traditions (Küçükerman, 1973).

Figure 1: Comparison of the tent and the room in terms of general layouts and usage forms.
1. Multipurpose central area
2. Peripheral area designed for sitting
3. Closed spaces of usage. Raised platforms (şeki), trunks, loads
4. Heating. Fireplace has to be located at the center in the tent, while it is moved closer to the walls in the room
5. Service area, which is necessary for convenience of the tent and the room (Source: Küçükerman, 1973).

Schema formed within the framework of the Turkish house plan, which is based upon the similarity between the tent and the room (Küçükerman, 1973, 1995; Kuban, 1995), has a single-storey (Figure 1). Together with physical conditions and environment which began to change through urbanization, the number of floors were increased to two or three and the plan dimensions also changed (Table 1) (Eldem, 1968; Günay, 1998).

Figure 2: In the Turkish House, there are no windows at the eye-level facing the street (right). In time, dynamism of the façade was ensured together with the increase in the number of windows (left) (Source: Günay, 1989).

Particularly, after the adoption of Islam by Turks, the idea of privacy became an important factor in both plan and façade arrangements. For this reason, while the lower floor is reserved for spaces for daily tasks such as service and kitchen, the top floor, which constitutes the main floor, is reserved for living areas. This functional difference within the plan is reflected upon the façade.
There are no windows at the eye-level facing the street due to the idea of privacy. Ventilation windows are opened in the service areas, when necessary. The only element on this lower floor is the entrance door. On the upper floor, since it is above eye level, ratio and number of windows are increased and dynamism is brought to the façade through different bay windows (Figure 2). Contrast between the lower and upper floors constitutes a harmony, and eases the perception of floors. In this way, the plan can be read from the façade (Table 1) (Yürekli, 2005; Kuban, 1995).

Table 1: Evolution Process of the Turkish House (Source: Yürekli, 2005).

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The most distinguishing features of urban identities are houses and façades. Houses are not simply constructed within the framework of certain architectural rules. Rather, they are designed in accordance with the user needs and they are indicators of customs and traditions narrating culture of life. In traditional houses, human size was used as the unit of measurement. Traditional houses were constructed by local masters and even by the participation of the house owner (Günay, 1989; Enginbaş, 1961). These buildings transformed into user-centered structures.

The Historic Sille Settlement
Sille is located 8 km northwest of Konya city center in the Central Anatolia region (Figure 3). It is one of the most important and historically rooted residential region in Anatolia (Figure 4). Archaeological studies show that Sille, which is marked by a unique structure pertaining to culture, belief, tradition and geography, has 6000 years old history. While there is no clear data relating to the period before Christianity, settlement ruins did not reach to our age. During the Christianity period, Sille draws attention as a significant settlement of the early Christians and as being on the Roman-Byzantine-Jerusalem route. Sille gained its well-deserved significance in the history, when Konya became the capital in the Seljuk period. Taken over by Karamanids Chiefdom, the region came to be known as ‘Karaman’ and the spoken language was called ‘Karamanca’. The non-Muslims living in the region were identified as ‘Gebran’. During the Ottoman period, Sille’s position on the Silk Road and the Spice Road increased the attributed importance of this place. Sille is the fourth municipality among the municipalities established within this period coming after Bursa, Edirne and Istanbul (Aklanoğlu, 2009). During both Seljuk and Ottoman periods, Sille was a settlement area where people from different ethnic (Turkish and Greek) and religious (Christian and Muslim) origins lived together. Throughout the history, Sille has always been a privileged settlement in Konya due to its social and cultural characteristics as well as its economic structure.
In the Turkish Republic period, the majority of the non-Muslim population was displaced to Greece due to the Treaty of Lausanne. Muslim Turkish population migrating from Greece was located in Sille which was vacant after the migration of non-Muslims. However, even before settling down in Sille, most of this Muslim Turkish population moved to other big cities of Anatolia to find jobs. Non-Muslims had an important place particularly in the spheres of trade and art; therefore, their displacement caused significant damage in the economic structure of Sille. At the beginning, favorable socio-economic condition disappeared. When problems such as unemployment arose, a large portion of Sille residents had to leave the settlement. There were significant waves of movement to other Anatolian cities, particularly to the center of Konya. Later, subculture group members from neighboring villages migrated to vacant houses left in Sille. Both insensibility of these subcultural group members towards the historical fabric and inhabitants’ indifference for these houses accelerated Sille’s destruction. In Sille, where around 18 thousand people used to live in the past, the population decreased to the level of a few thousands and many of the traditional houses, public buildings and street fabric disappeared. Furthermore, vineyard culture unique to Sille got its share from this destruction (Özönder, 1998; Sarıköse, 2008; Tapur, 2009).
Sille, was self-sustaining and even contributing to its neighbors. Churches, baths, mosques, fountains, bridges, historic mansions and traditional Sille houses are among cultural and historic assets of Sille. Considering these properties in Sille and with the decision given by Konya Council for the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property (dated 19.06.1995 and numbered 2292), southern slopes, where the ancient settlement, Hagia Michael Church (Aya Elenia Church), monastery, and graveyards are located, were registered as a first degree archaeological site, while the main settlement area was registered as an urban site (Dülgerler, 2000).

Figure 5: Aya Elenia Church (Source: Personal archive of E.Erdogan, 2012).

Figure 6: Carved rock churches in Sille (Source: Personal archive of author, 2012).
Sille is similar to Konya with its continental climate; however, due its location in the valley, its dispersed settlement and its rural qualities, Sille exhibits the characteristics of plateau climate. Compared to Konya, its winter is softer and its summer is chillier. Plateau climate, valley settlement and sloping land had crucial effects in the formation of characteristics of the residential structure in Sille. Elements that influenced the formation of traditional architecture in Sille can be listed as follows: climatic conditions, geographical position, topography, Sille stone (heliotrope found in Sille), traditionalized construction technology due to the utilization of Sille stone, social, cultural and economic structure of the community and religious beliefs. Earlier there were two different architectural styles (Turkish and Greek) in Sille under the effect of socio-cultural and religious structure. However, only traditional Turkish architecture and the architectural style in churches are visible today (Aklanoğlu, 2009). Sille, which housed many buildings from the Middle-Ages to the Republican period, has been a cultural and touristic center containing still-standing civilian architectural examples such as carved rock churches, chapels, Aya Elenia Church, mosques, baths and fountains (Figure 5, 6, 7). Besides, Sille has been at the forefront with hand workmanship such as carpets, pottery, rosary, stonemasonry and chandlery carrying the socio-cultural and economic characteristics, which were formed by Turks and Greeks living together in the past.

Considering scholarly literature on Sille; Çaycı (1996) provides detailed knowledge on the public Turkish bath, Sille’s history, geography and etymological roots of its name, while Danyl (1997) dwells upon Aya Elenia Church (Hagios Michael Church). Eyice (1962) and Özcan (1998) explain Christian architecture in Sille, history of its religious buildings, their plans as well as their architectural and ornamentation characteristics. Özönder addresses architecture of Sille and draws attention to Sille houses, which are marked by unique examples within Turkish civilian architecture (Özönder, 1998). Dülgerler (2000) concentrates on examples of civilian architecture in Sille and states that Sille will gain its rightful place by preparing and carrying out many restoration projects. Mimiroğlu’s (2006) article investigates Byzantine architecture in Konya, whereas Sanköse’s (2008) study touches upon historical and architectural characteristics of architectural works built in Sille during the Ottoman period. Although Sille has been the subject matter of many studies, it is seen that architectural studies in the scholarly literature are limited in number, while other studies (Berk, 1951; Sözen, 1979; Karpuz, 1999; Karpuz, 2002; Turgut, 2003; Mimiroğlu, 2006) are restricted at the urban level.

From past to present, Sille has welcomed different beliefs and cultures; and therefore, user needs have changed throughout time. This situation caused transformations in Sille’s architectural
elements as well as its historical fabric. Besides, plan characteristics, relations of the house with the street and with its environment, façade characteristics and mass installation constitute an important element in identifying characteristic features of the traditional fabric. In fact, façade characteristics make a more dominant influence on people in terms of first impression. In the last ten years, conservation and renovation projects and reconstruction activities have accelerated. This paper strives to aid such conservation projects. In due course, it investigates Sille’s unique characteristics and provides a typology study of house façades in Sille.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The area of the study includes aforementioned houses which are within the urban site area. Within this urban site area, all streets and houses are examined one by one. In the end, 16 houses, which contain and was able to preserve the characteristic features of traditional Sille houses, were found to be worthy of further investigation (Figure 8, 9). In façade analysis of these houses, architectural façade elements are studied and prevalent characteristic features are identified. The method employed in this study was also used in other studies concerning traditional houses and streets (Özdemir et al., 2008; Öztank, 2013; Dalkılıç & Aksulu, 2004). The method employed in this study is as follows:

- Original designs of traditional houses within the historical urban fabric were specified.
- Two main parameters were designated in the preparation of façade typologies of 16 houses which still contain the Sille traditional house characteristics: General architectural features and finishing elements.
  - General architectural features; Number of floors, position of the parcel, entrance (from the garden, from the street, flat entrance, entrance with niche, under the bay window (çıkma), on flat façade, entrance level), symmetry.
  - Finishing elements; Roof, eave, bay window (style and place of bay window, angle brace (göğüşleme), door and window styles.
- Each characteristic of the house façades analyzed under this study was symbolized and tabulated.
- Findings of the analysis were interpreted and presented.

Findings of this study are expected to contribute to the recent construction and reconstruction activities in the region. The study aims to designate Sille’s traditional architectural characteristics; to provide data for new designs and to transmit them to the future.

FAÇADE ANALYSIS OF TRADITIONAL SİLLE HOUSES
Streets
Sille is among rare historic settlement centers with its examples of civil architecture, street, stairs and other architectural elements which are transmitted to the present. Historical fabric of Sille manifests itself not only at the residential scale, but also at the scales of street and districts. To ensure the accord between city settlement and land conditions, vineyards and orchards are constructed on flat fields of the valley, while houses are built on the sloping lands. It is noted that streets are placed vertical to Sille River. In this way, floods and rain water are directed to the river. Sille is established on a rather rough field due to its geographical position. Form of this field was influential in the formation of stepped terrace system of traditional houses in Sille. Vertical and rough form of the field obliged the settlement of buildings, streets and districts to be constructed in terrace forms (Aklanoğlu, 2011; Erdem et al., 2010).

Buildings are placed in accordance with the field, with a particular attention to avoid blocking each other’s sun and wind. In this way, a natural micro-climate was established. Houses are placed in a way to respect each other and respect the human. The most apparent characteristics of traditional city fabric are the streets in organic layout. In streets of Sille, where the effects of topography are great, there is no pre-arranged formation. Streets are generally paved with stone and their centers are arranged with grooves in order to channel the water coming from above.

Figure 9: Sille houses selected for façade analysis (Source: Personal archive of E.Erdogan, 2012) .
In the twisting and intertwined narrow streets, stair-shaped solutions were produced and the consequent formation of different levels added dynamism to the historical fabric of the settlement. Streets, being in accord with the topography, are enriched with some dead-end streets. As Kuşçu (2006) claims, Sille streets in the valley settlement, just like the streets of Konya houses, recognize the pedestrian scale and they do not put pressure on the existing building structure (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Street views of Sille historical fabric (Source: Personal archive of E. Erdogan, 2012).

As Özüdoğru (1989) mentions, the phenomenon of fountains, observed in structures starting from the period of Anatolian Seljuks, are also found on the house façades in Sille. Fountains constitute an important place in the history of Sille. Hearsays suggest that each fountain has a cure for a different sickness. In this historic settlement, fountains have been among the influential elements of squares where streets merge and meet. It is also observed that these fountains sometimes become a façade element of the building (Figure 11). Fountains as façade elements of buildings located at squares or in corner parcels, also express the hospitality presented to the by-passers of streets.

Houses
Material, construction technique and technology used in the traditional houses are important effects shaping the façade. Easy material, master recruitment and climate characteristics are considered in the building construction stage. Since raw material of mud-brick is soil, which is cheap and appropriate for the climate, it is the most preferred construction material used in Turkish houses in Anatolia. For this reason, mostly mud-brick, wood and Sille stone are used in Sille houses. Sille stone is preferred, because it is a regional material. Wooden material generally exhibits itself in carriers or supporting elements of bay windows, windows and doors.

In settlements with attached buildings, it is observed that outer form of the house is cubic, whereas the roof is flat. Sille houses display stylistic variances like two and three-storey houses and houses with and without bay window. Traditional houses in Sille generally have a plan schema with
inner sofa. On the ground floor, there are service bodies such as porch, cellar, barn, loft and stock roof. The open area in the middle of these spaces is called “stone paving” (taşlık). The first floor consists of organization of sofa and rooms (corbelled main room with façade facing the main street). There are important extension spaces, which are particular to the region, in the old Sille houses. These places are small, but they are extremely functional and useful. These spaces, which still exist today, are extensions such as aşevi\(^1\) (soup kitchen), bi-evi\(^2\) (store room), yakacak evi\(^3\) (fuel house), öndamı\(^4\) (balcony), hanay\(^5\) (guest room), district rooms (mahalle odaları), heating rooms (Özönder, 1998). Bay windows on the façade open to the exterior space of the main room. In the region, houses with basements (kennels), which were built making use of the slope, are seen. Spaces on these floors are used as barns, lofts and storehouses. In houses with more than one floor built upon the ground floor, the inner floor is reserved for winter, while the upper floor is used in the summer. There are no windows on the façade of the inner floor and its floor height is less than the height of other floors. In this way, effects of external climate conditions are reduced as much as possible. On the summer floor, window ratio and the number of bay windows are increased, which make the space cool and spacious.

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\(^1\)Aşevi is a small room which is situated in the middle of the wooden stairs leading the entrance level to the upper floor. It is reached through a few steps from the small landing in the entrance.

\(^2\)Bi-evi is a cubby, which currently functions as a pantry. Its entrance is situated next to the small wooden door by the fireplace.

\(^3\)The room reached via bi-evi’s door is called yakacak evi.

\(^4\)Öndamı, is the extension of house’s hall that continues beyond the wall. Today it functions as a balcony.

\(^5\)Hanay, which is among the special spaces of Sille houses, refers to the houses that have a road, crossover or a small atrium underneath. All such spaces are now destroyed. Hanay signifies the house belonging to the district, where foreign guests are hosted as an indication of social solidarity and cooperation.
Entrance Door

Building façades vary in line with effects such as the width and the form of the parcel. Although structure approaches of Sille houses exhibit differences, their entrances, despite their positioning in the valley, are generally flat, without stairs, plain and without niches. Spaces (kennel and garden) with functions such as barn, storehouse, etc. are constructed by making use of the position of Sille houses in the valley. While their doors have similar physical characteristics, they are designed for animals to pass. Today, these doors are not used, because they remain under the road level due to street work conducted throughout time.

Entrance doors of houses are the most important elements of façades. In some traditional houses, the entrance door may be the only façade element of the ground floor. Entrances can be analyzed in two headings: building and garden entrance doors. There are few doors which have remained the same until today and they are wooden, generally plain, modest and double doors (Figure 12). Entrance doors of houses reflect the financial situation of the house owner and they are usually wooden double doors with stable windows.

![Figure 12: Examples of wooden doors and knockers of traditional houses in Sille](Source: Personal archive of E. Erdogan, 2012).

Windows

Windows, which are among the most seminal elements on the façades of traditional Turkish houses, can be examined under two headings in Sille houses: hung window and casement window. While the number of windows is few in the entrance and winter floors, there are more windows on the summer floor or the first floor which is also called the main floor. Standard size windows in Sille houses, just like in the traditional Turkish house (Günay, 1998) create rhythm and wholeness not only for the single house, but also for the city and the street (Figure 13). On some of the windows, which are positioned according to the dominant wind direction and climate of the region, wooden and iron cages are seen as aesthetic elements (Figure 9, picture 1). In traditional Sille houses, windows are in long and narrow rectangular shape, whereas some circular form windows are also visible with the influence of Greek architecture.
Bay windows

Bay windows are important façade elements which differ according to locations and geometry. Bay windows in traditional houses are constructed in order to meet the following concerns: to enlarge the usage area on the main living floor; to be open towards the scenery, garden and the street as much as possible; to make places, which are given importance in the planning, such as the sofa, room, summer room more visible. Bay windows influence city settlements by adorning, enlivening and reviving streets. In this way, they increase their own as well as the settlement’s value, in terms of their position (Evren, 1959).

Flat bay windows in the middle function as eaves above the entrances of the building’s two façades

Coupling of open and close bay windows extending straight along the façade of the restored building

Multi-beveled bay window on building façade due to the shape of the parcel

Bay window without support located above the residential entrance

Figure 14: Examples of Bay windows in traditional Sille houses (Source: Personal archive of E.Erdogan, 2012).
As one of the most crucial elements of Turkish house façade characteristics, bay windows are found in the vast majority of Sille houses. However, in this settlement, it is evident that some bay windows do not need any support because they are less in depth. Considering particularly the plan size of square bay windows, it is seen that they are used to give the inner space a more shapely geometric form rather than to enlarge rooms or to make use of natural light and ventilation. Together with this purpose, harmony with the street, respect for neighborhood, and human sizes are paid particular attention (Figure 14). There are no eaves in Sille houses, where examples of both closed and open bay windows are visible. Therefore, there are examples where bay windows are used as entrance eaves (Figure 9, picture 1-2-4-10-13-16).

Roof
Flat roofs and cubical chimneys, which are in accord with Sille’s climate, are the characteristic features of Sille houses (Figure 16). Flat roofs are massively used due to climatic characteristics of the region and economic reasons such as material and workmanship. In Sille, the roof, as a concluding element on the façade, constitutes a unity with eaves and chimneys; and thus, it has an important place in the cubical characteristic of the house (Figure 9, picture 3-6-8-13-14). Contrary to the ordinary, manifest cubical chimneys are situated on the façade adjacent to the outer wall. Examples of hipped roof with eaves, which are seen in traditional Turkish houses, are not found so much in Sille. Instead, hipped roofs are visible as add-ons to the currently used houses in the Sille settlement. It is seen that since there are usually no eaves in the houses, bay windows situated above entrances of some buildings carry out this function and they even provide shade for the streets.

The inner spaces of Turkish houses are better developed than their façades due to privacy and security concerns. Yürekli (2005) states that absence of ornaments, which do not have any function, on the façades of Turkish houses leads to a very clear perception of the house mass with its bay window as a complete engineering structure. While earlier façade examples were mostly marked by simplicity, the idea of ornamental façade became prevalent together with changes and developments in the physical conditions throughout history. Ornaments on façade give hints about the construction date of the house and its owner (Figure 15). While a general simplicity is prevalent on the façades of Sille houses, ornaments are rarely visible on the façades of the houses owned by certain people and these ornaments exhibit the period of building’s construction. Window, door, and wood paintings and even metal accessories are found on façades of these houses (Figure 9, picture 8).
EVALUATION
Sille has a rooted history and its traditional houses, which have come to this day, are generally historicized between the end of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. Since most of the houses are either in bad condition or abandoned, a deteriorated settlement fabric is seen. It is observed that some of the used houses had renovations and that some changes were made on their façade systems after 1950 (Erdem et al., 2010). Due to these renovations, façade analysis of the current situation was made in the light of the survey-restitution report.

Following steps were taken in the identification of the façade typology characteristics of traditional Sille houses and each step was analyzed through sub branches within itself:

- Identifying the parcel position of the structure
- Identifying number of floors
- Choosing the type of building entrance and its level
- Identifying the type of bay window and its position
- Choosing the type of entrance door and its material
- Choosing the window type and its material
- Identifying whether jamb-lining and/or supporting elements as façade elements are used or not.

Façade analysis was conducted on 16 houses, which preserved their originality. Data of this analysis are observed as follows;

- It is observed that only one of the houses is single-storey, while other eleven are two-storey houses.
- Houses are selected from 3 different streets. 6 of these houses are at the corner parcel, while 10 of them are located in the middle parcel. Attached building structure is visible in the overall settlement.
- The place of the selected houses, either in the valley or by the river, reflects upon façade details. Houses by the river generally have flat, street level entrances without niches and there are no basements. As for the houses situated on the hillsides, there are multiple entrance doors created by making use of the slope.
- There are no façade movements besides bay windows on the outer forms of the houses. Only in the valley settlement, in three houses with high entrance levels, entrances are constructed with niches in order to prevent extension of stairs to the street. One of the houses has an entrance from the garden, while the other 15 houses have entrances from the street.
- Eight of the houses chosen in Sille, which display housing in accord with the land slope, have leveled entrances. Entrances of these 8 houses were made above street level in order to create door height for the basement level or to detach floor entrances by making use of the land slope.
- Two of the houses have entrances in the middle of the flat façade, while 4 of them have entrances in the middle of the area below the bay window and 5 of the houses have entrances in the corner of the area below the bay window. Entrances below the bay window are the dominant characteristic of entrances.
- Symmetry on the façade was observed only in one house for the entrance floor and in three houses for the first floor.
- Not all of the chosen houses have eaves and they display cubic façade characteristics with flat soil roofs.
- There are no bay windows in 5 of the chosen houses and they are in plain cubic shape. Flat bay windows supported by angle braces (göğüsleme) are dominant in 8 houses, while there are square edged (gönyeli) bay windows in the other 3 houses. Some of the flat bay windows are used as open spaces and they function as today's balcony.
- As seen in the house numbered 7, there can be multiple square edged bay windows along the façade in different sizes. The aim of this bay window is beyond enlarging the space;
rather it stems from the attempt to give the space a shapely geometric form. The depth of
these bay windows does not necessitate support.

- There are no bay windows with corners in Sille houses. There are a total of 11 chosen
  houses with bay windows. Four of these houses have bay windows along the façade,
  while 3 of them have bay windows in the middle and 4 of them have edge bay windows.
  Bay windows in houses express the place of the main room on the façade. They are
  placed above the entrance as much as possible; and in this way, they are also used as
  entrance eaves. In 9 of these houses with bay windows, angle braces are visible as the
  dominant characteristic. Wood was heavily used in windows and doors of Sille houses. It
  is seen that only 3 of the houses have iron doors. Five of the doors have single wings,
  while 8 of them have double wings. Half of the windows have wings, while the other half
  consists of hung windows. Most of the houses’ gardens disappeared within the course of
  history; therefore, their gardens are not evaluated within the façade analysis.

- Seven of the chosen houses have window and door frames, which are among façade
  ornaments of traditional houses.
Table 2: Façade Analysis of Traditional Sille Houses Table-1 (Source: Authors).

| Figure Number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | Dominant |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| **Window**    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Window Frame  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Wood Hung     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Winged        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Door**      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Iron Double   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Winged        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Wood Double   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Winged        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Finishings Elements** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Angle Brace   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Corner |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Side   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Middle |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| along the Façade |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| with Square Edged |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Flat          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Bay Window** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Place of Bay Window |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Corner |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Side   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Middle |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| along the Façade |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| with Square Edged |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Flat          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Roof**      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Flat Roof     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Pitched Roof  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Symmetry** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| First Floor   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Ground        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Entrance Level** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| High Level    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Street with Level |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **On the Flat Façade** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Middle |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Side   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Under the Bay Window** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Middle |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| on the Side   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Flat Entrance** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Entrance with Niche** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Entrance with Niche |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **From the Street** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **From the Garden** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Position of the Parcel** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Mid Parcel    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Corner Parcel |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| **Floor Number** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Ground +2     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Ground +1     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
| Ground        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
Considering all of these findings, dominant façade characteristics observed in Sille houses are identified. It is seen that there is an attached building structure in Sille settlement. Sille houses, which consist of an entrance level and the first floor, have flat roofs with no eaves and they are in cubic shape. Asymmetry on façades is observed both on the entrance and upper floors. Entrances from different levels are among the characteristics of traditional Sille houses and it is found that they are flat and without niches. Entrances are generally below and at the corner of the bay window. It is observed that a supporting element is dominantly used. The positions of bay windows, which are widely used as façade elements, differ in accordance with the position of the parcel. Entrance doors have double wings, while windows with wings or hung windows are preferred. Wood is used as the material.

CONCLUSION
Traditional Sille’s urban fabric consists of a settlement on the sides of two mountains facing each other. It mirrors unique values of the traditional settlement organization with its castle, streets formed in line with topography, fountains, bridges, churches, mosques, chapel, baths, mansions and houses. Although it is located in close proximity to Konya, Sille draws attention as a unique site with its geographical structure, cultural life, beliefs and tradition. Hittites, Phrygians, Byzantines, Seljuks, Karamanids, and Ottomans maintained rule around Sille. Sille was a sub district for a long time during the Turkish Republic period and today it carries the characteristic of neighborhood settlement. Throughout history, Sille has been a remarkable settlement, which has significant socio-economic past within a climate of inter-religious tolerance and indulgence with its sanctuaries representing Christianity and Islamic identity. However, due to the current socio-economic changes, Sille has lost this importance to a great extent. Elements which influenced the formation of traditional architecture in Sille can be listed as follows: climatic conditions, geographical position, topography, Sille stone (heliotrope as a construction material found in Sille), traditionalized construction technology due to the utilization of Sille stone, as well as social, cultural and economic structure of the community.

The result of façade analysis conducted within the scope of this study indicates that Sille houses, which generally have the inner-sofa plan, constitute integrity with the general characteristics of the Turkish house in terms of main construction and usage principles. It is seen that the settlement carries the characteristics of its unique and typical traditional architecture both with its parcel locations, types of roofs and bay windows and types of doors and windows and their details (Table 1, Table 2). Technological developments and the wide-spread use of concrete were influential in the shaping of architectural structures in Sille, just like in any other Anatolian cities. Conservation of natural and cultural assets in regional planning is an imperative for sustainability. In terms of tourism, Sille still preserves its historical urban fabric.

Cultural and natural values of the city shape its identity. Conservation of these values will ensure the transmission of material and moral messages coming from the past to the future. In this way, it will ensure the sustainability of urban identity. In order to revive Sille’s importance in the past, it should be transformed into a tourism center. Sille is a settlement where diverse cultures lived together for a long time. With the cultural assets inherited from these cultures, Sille has the elements of culture and faith tourism, which are sought by both domestic and foreign tourists. However, since these assets are not adequately assessed today, they cannot be used in tourism. Local administrations have initiated infrastructural works, required for the conservation and restoration of cultural properties in Sille and for making use of this historic settlement in tourism. Transmission of Sille’s fabric, which was able to come to the present through a historical process, is very important in terms of preserving its artistic and cultural identity. Informing local people and raising awareness on the historic environment are seen to be the most significant tool for implementation. Research and analysis show that user needs and comfort are very influential in the unique formation of the traditional Sille house. This situation reflects upon the façades of traditional Sille houses. On one hand, change and deterioration on façades of traditional houses point out the need to put effort towards the conservation of traditional houses, which are among
our important cultural values. On the other hand, it recounts the impossibility of conserving traditional houses without meeting current needs and requests of users. Change and deterioration observed on façades are also indicators of the necessity to consider user demands in the process of conserving traditional houses. In this sense, traditional houses, which are significant elements of urban identity, and their façades, which can be considered as urban interface, are very essential. In this context, in order to ensure the maintenance of urban identity, the following steps should be undertaken: elements constituting urban identity should be studied; changes and deterioration throughout history should be identified; and existing original values should be investigated together with the current conditions and necessities. The main goal of conserving historical fabric and identity is to preserve and reclaim cultural heritage and to transmit them to future generations.

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Ceray Mimarlık, Sille Evleri Rööve Raporu.

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